

We claim:

1. A method for treating Hashimoto's thyroiditis, the method comprising the step of local administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a botulinum toxin to a patient, wherein the botulinum toxin is administered in an amount between 1 unit and 20,000 units, thereby ameliorating severity of Hashimoto's thyroiditis for between two months and six months.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the botulinum toxin is locally administered to the thyroid gland of the patient.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the botulinum toxin is locally administered in an amount of between about 10^{-3} U/kg and about 35 U/kg.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the botulinum toxin is made by a Clostridial bacterium.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the botulinum toxin is selected from the group consisting of botulinum toxin types A, B, C, D, E, F and G.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the botulinum toxin is botulinum toxin type A.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein the botulinum toxin is administered to the thyroid gland of the patient by placement of a botulinum toxin implant on or in the thyroid gland.

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8. The method of claim 1, wherein the botulinum toxin is botulinum toxin type A and the botulinum toxin administered to the thyroid gland of the patient in an amount of between about 1 unit and about 100 units.

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9. A method for treating Hashimoto's thyroiditis, the method comprising the step of administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a botulinum toxin to a thyroid gland of a patient by direct injection of the botulinum toxin into the thyroid gland, wherein the botulinum toxin is administered in an amount between 1 unit and 20,000 units, thereby ameliorating severity of Hashimoto's thyroiditis for between two months and six months.

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10. The method of claim 9, wherein the botulinum toxin is selected from the group consisting of botulinum toxin types A, B, C, D, E, F and G.

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11 The method of claim 9, wherein the botulinum toxin is botulinum toxin type A.

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12 The method of claim 9, wherein the botulinum toxin is botulinum toxin type B.

13. A method for amelioration of Hashimoto's thyroiditis, the method comprising the step of local administration of between 1 unit and 200 units of a botulinum toxin type A to a patient, thereby easing the severity of Hashimoto's thyroiditis for between two months and six months.